

Dear Child Nutrition Product Manufacturer:

This letter is to inform you of important changes to requirements for companies producing Child Nutrition (CN) labeled products. **Please read this letter carefully, a response is required from every establishment that wishes to continue manufacturing CN labeled products.**

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has revised the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG)* (Program Aid 1331, Revised November 2001). According to CN Labeling Program regulations, "Yields for determining the product's contribution toward the meal pattern requirements must be calculated using the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs*." Because the *FBG* must be used to determine CN product contribution, CN labels that were created using outdated *FBG* product yields are now potentially incorrect. This letter outlines specifically what will be required for all currently approved CN labels and for future label submittals.

All CN labeled products must comply with the yields in the November 2001 *FBG*. However, due to the number of CN labels that have been approved since the inception of the CN labeling program and the number of possible label inventories held by companies, FNS has established separate procedures for labels approved prior to June 30, 2003, and labels approved after June 30, 2003.

1. Labels Approved Prior to June 30, 2003:

All labels approved by FNS prior to June 30, 2003, will be given until July 1, 2004, to comply with the new *FBG* yields. Please follow the following instructions carefully.

In order to update our files to properly reflect the status for each company's CN labels, **FNS must receive a list of all CN labeled products approved prior to June 30, 2003, that each establishment plans to maintain.** This list must be received by FNS before **December 31, 2003**, and must be submitted in the following format:

Is Credit valid using new <i>FBG</i> yields*	Establishment Number	CN ID Number	Product Name	Product Code	FSIS Approval Number
Yes or No					

*You must recalculate each CN product using the correct yield information provided in the November 2001 *FBG*.

If FNS does not receive your list of CN labeled products by **December 31, 2003**, all CN label approvals will be rescinded permanently for each establishment that does not provide the required information. All CN labels that the establishment plans to

maintain must be included on the list submitted to FNS. Any CN label approval not included on the list will be considered to be an acknowledgement from the company that those CN ID numbers are permanently out of service and therefore will be permanently rescinded by FNS.

Each establishment will need to review all CN labels to determine if CN label statements are correct using the yields in the November 2001 *FBG*. If the revised *FBG* yields require the CN label statement to be changed, this must be indicated by putting a “no” in the first column of the list. All CN labels that no longer meet requirements using the revised *FBG* yields will be rescinded on **July 1, 2004**. If the CN label statement is still correct using the November 2001 *FBG*, indicate this on the list by putting a “yes” in the first column of the list; and the label will not be rescinded and can continue to be used.

Please note that under no circumstances should changes be made to the CN label statement of an approved CN label.

2. Labels Approved After June 30, 2003:

From now until June 30, 2003, labels submitted to FNS may use yields from either edition of the *FBG*. **After June 30, 2003**, all new labels submitted for approval must be generated using yields from the November 2001 *FBG*.

Products that use the outdated yields will be given a temporary approval that will expire no later than **July 1, 2004**. FNS will not grant extensions for any labels given a temporary approval for using outdated *FBG* yields past **July 1, 2004**.

After July 1, 2004, all CN labeled products (new and old approvals) being manufactured must be credited using the revised (November 2001) *FBG* yields.

The November 2001 *FBG* is available at the following web site:
<http://schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov:8001/FBG/buyingguide.html> In order to assist you in this process, FNS will provide one free copy of the *FBG* to each CN labeling establishment that places an order. If your company would like a hard copy of the *FBG*, please use the order form enclosed.

In summary, FNS is requiring each establishment to review all of their CN labels and provide a list to us by December 31, 2003, showing what labels meet the revised *FBG* yields and which do not meet the revised *FBG* yields. Labels that do not meet the revised *FBG* yields will be rescinded July 1, 2004. Labels that meet the revised yields may continue to be used. Any labels approved between the date of this letter and June 30, 2003, that use the old *FBG* yields will be given a temporary approval. All CN labels must follow the revised (November 2001) *FBG* yields no later than July 1, 2004.

If you have any questions about the requirements outlined in this letter, please contact a member of the CN labeling staff at 703-305-2609.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

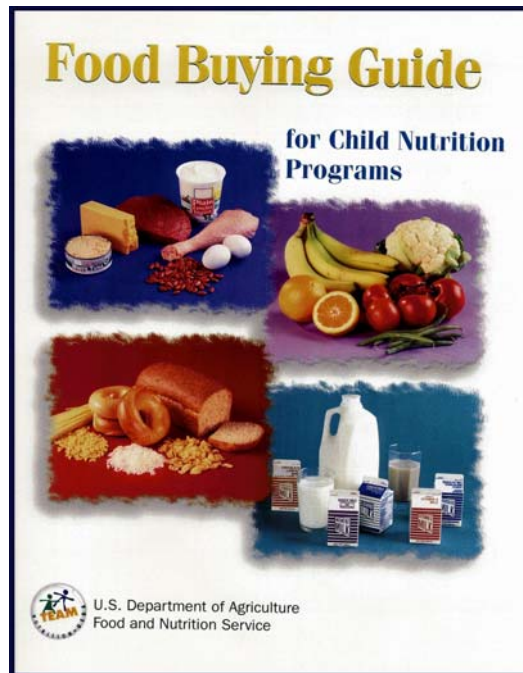
Sincerely,

STANLEY C. GARNETT
Director
Child Nutrition Division

cc: Expeditors

Enclosure – FBG Order Form

ORDER YOUR FREE COPY TODAY



Food Buying Guide Manual (USDA PA 1331)

Please fill out this form completely. Companies may request one free copy for each establishment producing CN labeled products.

Name (Print or Type)

Company

Street Address (We do not ship to PO Boxes)

City

State

Zip Code

(_____)_____
Phone

**Send or FAX
your request to:**

**NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Phone: (703) 305-1624
Fax: (703) 605-6852**

